GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:920
ANSWERED ON:27.02.2001
EARTHQUAKES IN NARMADA VALLEY
MOHAMMED SHAHABUDDIN

Will the Minister of SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether attention of the Government has been drawn to the warning given by the geological experts regarding suspected devastating earthquake on the basis of geological changes in the Narmada belt prior to earthquake in Gujarat immediately;

(b) if so, whether the geological upheavals have become abnormal and in the aforesaid region which is a matter of concern;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the scientists have divided the country into five seismic zones in which Jabalpur in Madhya Pradeshhas been placed next to Gujarat; and

(e) if so, the concrete steps taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (SHRI BACHI SINGH RAWAT)

(a), (b) & (c): Sir, Geological experts have not issued any warning regarding occurrence of possible earthquake based on the geological changes in the Narmada belt. No geological changes have been noticed in the Narmada belt before or after the Gujarat earthquake of 26th January, 2001.

(d)&(e): As per the Bureau of Indian Standards (IS:1893-1984), the country has been divided into five seismic zones (Zone-1 to Zone-V), Zone-V is seismically most active region, while zone I is less active.Rann of Kutch area falls in Zone-V, whereas the Jabalpur in Madhya Pradesh falls in Zone-lll.

The India Meteorological Department has established two seismological observatories at Bhopal and Bilaspur equipped with state of the art digital seismographs to monitor the seismic activity in the region. In addition to the above, GSI is also operating one state-of-the-art seismological observatory at Jabalpur. A seismic telemetered cluster in Khandwa region in MP is also planned. The Narmada Valley River Development Authority and other organisations are operating a total of 14 seismic stations in the area. The data from these observatories are helpful in monitoring the seismic activity and also in the design of earthquake resistant structures. Micro-zonation study of Jabalpur area has also been initiated.